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PP RUEHMR  
DE RUEHSB #0628/01 1461003  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 261003Z MAY 06 ZDK  
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0108  
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY  
RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA 1217  
RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 1053  
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 1223  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0481  
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 0847  
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 1274  
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 3644  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 1046  
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 1683  
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC//DHO-7//  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RUEKJCSJOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YOR 1432  
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC  
RUFOADA/AC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK//DOOC/ECMO/CC/DAO/OB/DOI//  
RUEPGBA/CDR USEUCOM INTEL VAIHINGEN GE//CJ23-CH/ECJ5M//

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 HARARE 000628

SIPDIS

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AF/S FOR B NEULING  
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR C. COURVILLE  
AFR/SA FOR E. LOKEN  
COMMERCE FOR BECKY ERKL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/31/2011  
TAGS: [ELAB](#) [PGO](#) [PHUM](#) [ECON](#) [ASEC](#) [ZI](#)  
SUBJECT: LABOR STRIKES LOMING

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires, a.i., Eric T. Schultz under Section 1  
.4 b/d

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Summary  
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¶1. C) General Agriculture and Plantation Workers Union of Zimbabwe (GAPWUZ) General Secretary Gertrude Hambira told econoff on May 24 that within two weeks the union would likely announce a strike by agricultural workers over wages. Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) Secretary General Wellington Chibembe said ZCTU would support GAPWUZ but not play a leading role and would defer a decision on additional strikes pending further negotiations over wages with employers and the GOZ in the Tripartite Negotiating Forum. The Harare Municipal Workers Union, a civil servant association unaffiliated with ZCTU, has announced its intention to strike beginning June 5 over wages. End Summary.

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Farm Worker Mobilizing for June Strike  
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¶2. (C) General Secretary Gertrude Hambira told econoff May 24 that GAPWUZ intended within two weeks to call for a strike of agricultural workers over wages. Current minimum monthly wages for general agricultural, horticultural and timber workers are Z\$1.3M (US\$13 at the official exchange rate; US\$3.1 at the parallel rate), Z\$2.2M and Z\$2.8M, respectively. The union was seeking increases to Z\$10, Z\$15 and Z\$15, respectively.

¶3. (C) Hambira said she was coordinating with local NGOs and international labor contacts, especially in the UK, to raise the prospective strike's profile. She added that she was seeking funding from local donor organizations to transport

workers to participate in demonstrations in the capital.

¶4. (C) Hambira reported that GAPWUZ had received a letter from the Agriculture Labor Bureau, an independent association of agricultural employers from the Commercial Farmers, Union, the Zimbabwe Commercial Farmers, Union of Zimbabwe and the Zimbabwe Farmers, Union, threatening to seek the union's deregistration if it did not retract its call for a strike. She said that the threat would not dissuade the union, which under Zimbabwean law had the right to strike once it had notified employers of its intent to strike. She advised that the Ministry may step in to mediate between workers and employers once the union filed its notification.

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ZCTU to Support GAPWUZ, Consider Additional Strikes  
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¶5. (C) According to a Japanese diplomat, Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) Secretary General Wellington Chibebe told him on May 23 that ZCTU would help coordinate the GAPWUZ strike but would not play a leading role. The diplomat added that Chibebe had confirmed press reports that ZCTU would defer decisions on whether to pursue broader wage-related strikes until at least June 16, the date of the overarching union's next General Council meeting. Chibebe had added that such decisions would hinge on progress in the Tripartite Negotiating Forum between labor, employers and the GOZ. He noted further that ZCTU actions would not be coordinated with the opposition MDC.